



MEETING MINUTES / 17 OCTOBER 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Armbruster, Baldwin, Johnson, Lopez, Magner (telephone), McMullen, Newman (telephone), Newstadt, Sarg, Seppala, and Stewart (telephone) **80%**

Absences: Showell, Bradley, and Lardizzone

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Jessica Finan, Liz Byers-Jiron, Vivian Starnes, Kim McMullen, Dave Skocik, Edward Tatum

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for natural disaster victims

Reminded members of various November veteran's events

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Newstadt and Armbruster

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Public Affairs

The flu clinics are still being publicized

Sussex CBOC ribbon cutting 27 October / 1030

Introduced CBOC clinical leaders

- Bill Griffiths

- Dr Tony Sliwinski

Additional space needed for Dover CBOC, trying to double the size

(Newstadt) What is the status of the orthopedic clinic?

Clinic being reviewed at federal level, also assessing civilian contracts

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

103 residents and entry applications are being review

Change orders have moved the gold suite opening to 2 January

- Plumbing issues are plaguing the project

Suites will be modernized with television monitors (depicting Delaware scenes) on the walls

- Replaces painting and adds reminder of local landmarks

New goal, ensure all providers are certified in dementia care

Quarterly meeting with Wilmington VAMC is scheduled for 24 October / 1000

Resident's Christmas Party is 13 December / 1300

Dining room and dishwasher issues have been resolved

(Stewart) Do you need volunteers for the Christmas Party, would like to recruit university veterans?

Yes and contact volunteer services to coordinate

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Cornhole fundraiser was successful, would like to see commissioners at next year's event

Male facility is full and female facility houses 7 of 8

American Disability Act ramps have been added to the homes to comply with Veteran Affairs specifications

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Colleen Aungst, Tarabicos-Grosso Law Firm

Firm is interested in supporting veteran causes

- Seeking commission ideas

Left contact information for interaction

Liz Byers-Jiron

Read post-Stand Down letter

- Event had over 1200 attendees

Dave Skocik

Cowboy Up (lounge) fundraiser raised \$1100.00

Vietnam Veterans of America fundraiser is 11 November / 1400, Kent Veterans Park

Trust fund dinner sign-up deadline is 30 October

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 71

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments - 30

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Veteran employment opportunities are coming from small businesses

- Specialty training is needed to fill positions

Brain Injury Association of Delaware lacks long-term care for brain injured citizens

- No brain injury registry, in Delaware, to track the population

Attended State Council for Persons with Disabilities Luncheon

- Mentioned networking opportunities throughout Delaware via Delaware Joining Forces

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Governor signed House Bill 112 (accepting military training)

Need ideas for potential legislation

- Contact veteran service organizations for ideas

Governor signed medical marijuana bill for post-traumatic stress treatment

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

Local chapter will address executive council vacancies

- Next meeting 15 November

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

State leaders are in Indianapolis for training

Went to Indianapolis for Americanism training

Visited Widener University to meet with high school students interested in Service Academy attendance

Concord High School student won \$10K Boys State scholarship

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

Not present

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

Via email:

Veterans Service Officer Outreach events

Camden, 21 September – processed 55 claims and Delaware Tech (Dover), 22 September – processed 15 claims

Attended World War I meeting on 27 September

Met with Scott Sipple (designer) to plan for Womens' Memorial, projected costs \$45K

Attended Delaware National Guard deployment departure ceremony on 4 October

Commissioner Johnson (KWVA)

Local Korean churches have sponsored lunches for Korean War Veterans

Visiting Boson, to honor traumatic brain injury treatment providers on 2 November

Cheer Center Veterans Day Dinner is 9 November

Korean War Veterans are being honored at Arlington on Veterans Day

- Both Delaware Korean War Veterans Association chapter will attend

Distributed a pamphlet entitled "Survivor to Survivor" discussing actions following the death of a spouse

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Preparing for Toys for Tots

- Collection box will be in commission waiting area

- Donate a new toy(s)

- Last year supported 2K families

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

U.S. Delegation partnered to compare notes for FY 18 National Defense Authorization Act priorities

- Handout given

Contact your legislator to provide inputs

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

Not present

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Via email:

Canna Care providers are assessing veterans for entry into Delaware's Medical Marijuana Program on 21 October, Post 3238 / 0900 – 1700

Almost Sunrise documentary (Iraq veterans) screening on 25 October, Post 3238 / 1800 – 2100

Attending VFW Eastern States Conference in Maine, 27 – 28 October

Attending Military Order of the Cottie Tomb Trek at Arlington, 3 – 5 November

Requests a copy of proposed commission legislation prior to introduction

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Barnes and Noble (Concord), then book fair book signing on 4 November

Navy Memorial book signing, 9 November

Keynote Speaker, Navy Memorial, 11 November

Be mindful of young people, Archmere and Delaware Military Academy suffered death within their student bodies

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

Not present

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Jewish War Veterans final meeting before winter break was in September, will reconvene in April

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Lopez (At Large)

Toys for Tots, DelVets Post 1 on 5 November

Benevolent event fundraiser, for needy citizens, 10 December / 1700 - 2000

Providing transition care briefings for veteran students

Commissioner Stewart (At Large)

Law Enforcement / First Responders Luncheon, honoring three families, successfully raised \$750.00

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 8, Granted 6 (75%), Awarded \$6,096.31 and Balance \$59,720.00

TERM EXPIRATION:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Selected By-Laws Review Committee

- Chair Showell, Member Baldwin, and Member Seppala

SPECIAL SESSION:

Presented Special Advisor certificate to Liz Byers-Jiron

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 21 November 2017 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference Room